



National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region
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PUBLIC NOTICE

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PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY OFF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Not yet Effective: New 30 fm Boundary Line affecting Commercial Non-Trawl and Recreational Fisheries off Southern California

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces that proposed changes to the closed areas affecting the commercial non-trawl fisheries (limited entry fixed gear and open access non-trawl gear) and the recreational fishery in southern California (south of 34°27' N. lat., also known as Point Conception, to the U.S./Mexico border), along with corrections to the trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) 200 fm boundary line, will **not** be effective September 1. The conservation area boundary line affecting the commercial non-trawl fisheries and the recreational fishery is proposed to move from 20 fm to 30 fm south of 34°27' N. lat, except in the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCAs) where the boundary will remain at 20 fm. However, this federal regulation change has not yet been approved and, therefore, will not be effective by September 1, 2003. The state of California has approved state regulations to conform with the pending federal regulations. State regulations will be effective in state waters (0-3 nautical miles) September 1 (see the California Department of Fish and Game's website at www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/index.html for information on state regulations). As soon as federal regulations have been approved to implement the 30 fm boundary line off southern California, a separate public notice will be released. Until then, current federal boundary lines will remain in effective in federal waters (3-200 nautical miles) for commercial non-trawl and recreational groundfish fisheries.

For more information contact: NMFS Northwest Region at 206-526-6140 or visit our website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfsh/gdfsh01.htm>; NMFS Southwest Region at 562-980-4000; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 360-249-4628; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at 541-867-4741; or the California Department of Fish and Game at 707-441-5797 (Eureka), 510-581-7358 (Belmont), 562-342-7184 (Los Alamitos), 858-546-7167 (La Jolla).

To receive Pacific Coast Groundfish public notices via e-mail, please e-mail your request to westcoastgroundfish@noaa.gov